

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports
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Food and Animal Health & ID Programs

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- **Food Safety Program - COVID-19 Consultations:**

We are continuing with our collaborative effort with the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon OSHA to support the food supply chain. ODA has been working to leverage our connections and knowledge of business functions to assist industry in the implementation of control practices. Our process adjusted to include limited discussion on the Oregon OSHA temporary rule to make sure business are aware. So far, we have received 440 outbreak notification, some of which are repeats

- **FDA contract and Manufactured Foods:** Since the change in approach to reopening Oregon, we have restricted some inspection activities in Extreme and High Risk COVID Zones. Currently manufactured food routine inspections and FDA contract inspections are not occurring in areas deemed Extreme Risk, while in High Risk areas inspections are conducted at high risk manufacturers only. In Moderate and Low Risk zones most activities are occurring normally. A Field Activities Matrix has been developed to assist staff members in determining appropriate activities in their area. Wherever possible, we are conducting activities to keep commerce open and we are responding to consumer complaints where public health is potentially compromised.

- **Dairy Program Update:** We have requested and the FDA approved our 4th 90-day Emergency Consideration waiver, which ends March 17, 2021. The waiver, filed in December, gives us another 90 days of leniency if we miss our dairy requirements such as sampling, pasteurizers testing, and inspection deadlines. Still, with COVID-19 assessment protocols in place, field staff continues to do the majority of our routine dairy sampling, pasteurizer equipment checks, and inspection duties on a pre-notified basis.

Additionally, we are in the process of adoption of the 2019 Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) and associated documents: 2019 Methods of Making Sanitation Ratings (MMSR) and the 2019 Evaluation of Milk Laboratories (EML). The process is expected to completed by February 1st, 2021.

- **Shellfish Program Update:** To date all Oregon Domoic Acid results in crab viscera collected and sampled from zones A through J have been below the limit of 30 ppm. Washington has had numerous crab samples from their southernmost zone with elevated levels (above the 30 ppm threshold) in their viscera and has yet not had a round of crab samples where all were below the limit. Therefore, Washington has delayed opening their crab season. Because of the high levels in Washington's samples, all of the zones in Oregon, with exception to the most northerly Oregon crab zone A (Astoria down to about the Tillamook/Clatsop county line) opened on December 16th. Zone A was delayed in opening until Washington decides to open. This decision was reached between both Oregon and Washington's governmental agencies and the crab industry. The delay for Zone-A in Oregon will extend into mid-January or possibly even later. That delay for zone-A has been accepted by the Oregon crab industry but after mid-January there will likely be more pressure to open A if the WA season can't get started. The closure is not due to domoic acid levels in Oregon.

As of 12/30/20, Crab results from zones A, B and O (the Columbia River) were all below the limit of 30 ppm for domoic acid in crab meat. ODA will continue to sample zones: D, E, F, G, H, I and J as soon as weather and ocean conditions are favorable for vessels return to harvesting.

Additionally, we are in the process of adoption of the 2019 Revision of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish. The process is expected to be completed by February 1st, 2021.

- **Animal Health:** November and December were busy months for the Animal Health Program. A new District Veterinarian was hired in December to cover Western Oregon. Dr. Kristine Carter comes to ODA from Idaho where she has worked as an FSIS Public Health Veterinarian. She is a graduate of OSU for both undergraduate studies and veterinary school.

The Animal Health program responded to a number of disease events over the past 2 months, including a mink farm infected with SARS-CoV-2. Additional reportable disease cases include 2 bulls positive for Trichomoniasis, a horse farm quarantined for neurologic Equine Herpes Virus, a horse that tested positive for Equine Infectious Anemia virus, and a suspected Anthrax case (later confirmed negative).

- **Livestock ID:** Livestock Identification ended the calendar year having inspected 988,370 head of cattle. This is 121,916 head less than calendar year 2019. The program is making every effort to be as efficient as possible, but the impact of fewer inspections being performed and increased salaries is having a negative effect on cash balance. Program staff do feel that many cattle have been held over, with the hopes of better prices and better grazing conditions in CA for commuter herds. Staff continue to answer questions and work with industry regarding SB 32 which would increase caps on some program fees.
- **Lab Services Update:** Lab Services continues to be open and perform testing on samples submitted. However, the number of samples has declined, some of the decline is seasonal and some is related to restrictions in work for programs due to COVID-19: a few pesticide program samples, no fertilizer samples, no CAFO samples, no food samples. Shellfish and crab viscera continue to arrive weather dependent. Dairy samples continue as scheduled. Staffing is a mix of in lab/office, split shifts and a few remote working. As sample load has diminished some focus has turned to catching up on standard operating procedure updates, reviews and approvals. Staff are also utilizing Go-Pros to film technical methods with the use of webcam to assess staff competency as a means of continued cross training of staff.

Market Access & Certification Programs

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- **Agriculture Development and Marketing:**
 - By the end of January, the Commodity Commission Oversight Program will begin actively seeking applicants for 71 commissioner positions, including 9 public members. (The public member positions we're recruiting for are: Beef, Blueberry, Clover Seed, Dungeness Crab, Fine Fescue, Raspberry-Blackberry, Strawberry, Sweet Cherry, and Tall Fescue.) The program works with commissions, agriculture membership organizations, ODA's communications team, and others in outreach efforts. The deadline for applications is March 15. New terms begin July 1.
 - ADMP received a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant to develop tools and resources (Roadmap) for small to medium-sized food and beverage makers to navigate the requirements and resources available to start, grow, and be successful in local and national markets. The project will include specific outreach to BIPOC, women, and veteran-owned food and beverage companies.
 - ADMP is preparing video content, including a chef demo project with the Food Innovation Center, for activities that cannot take place in person in 2021 (such as the FoodEx trade show in Tokyo). Other programs have been postponed until later in the year, such as an outbound mission to South Korea in December.

- ADMP continues to focus on export opportunities in Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Canada, South Korea, and China; and is working on plans to bring a domestic trade show to Portland in 2022.
- **Certification Programs:** The program continues to increase the number of auditors around the state to assist with high demand for audits and to reduce costs to customers. Protocols were developed to conduct audits during the COVID-19 pandemic and service has not been interrupted.
- **Plant Health Program:** The Plant Health program received funding for five projects through the USDA APHIS Plant Protection Act Section 7721. Funds will be used to address plant disease concerns that affect Oregon agriculture, including Little Cherry disease, Grapevine red blotch, and Xylella fastidiosa. Funds will also be used to update the virus certification programs that are administered by the Plant Health Program, including blueberry, grapevine, and tree fruit.
- **Produce Safety:**
 - Produce Safety Program provides services to the produce industry to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The program focus is on outreach, education, and technical assistance via its four staff and partnership with five Oregon State University faculty. To date, the Produce Safety team has conducted virtual grower training classes, reaching over 1,000 people.
 - 2019 was the first year Produce Safety Rule inspections were conducted across the United States. In Oregon, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducts these inspections. Farms grossing over \$500,000 of produce sales averaged over the last three years were inspected in 2019.
 - COVID-19 prevented most routine FDA-led inspections from occurring in Oregon. Fewer than five were conducted in 2020.
- **Shipping Point Inspection:**
 - Transportation is an issue - availability is low and demand is high.
 - Continue to struggle with labor on both the agency and industry side.
 - COVID-19 cases and exposures continue to be a challenge, however overall business has not been hindered by either labor or COVID-19 at this time.
 - Issuance of hay and straw phytosanitary certificates and exports are similar to 2019.
- **Weights and Measures: Fourth Quarter, 2020** (* Denotes 3rd Quarter 2020 for comparison)
 - Inspectors examined 59% of weighing and measuring devices and conducted about 70% of the inspections performed annually on a normal year. The drop in annual inspection numbers relative to previous years is largely attributed to the efforts taken by everyone to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.
 - For the 4th quarter of 2020: 482 (*259) new licenses were issued. 0 (*7) " Just Checking In" (JCI) Food Safety Audits were conducted by W&M Inspectors. The surge in COVID cases seen this fall impacted our ability to perform this work.
 - W&M continues to enhance existing excel-based field inspection reports improving data entry efficiencies.
 - W&M plans to deploy a new complaint case management system which will allow us to better track and manage complaint investigation documentation electronically.
 - W&M completed construction of a new bulk fuel testing unit in 2020 that is expected to enhance workplace safety and improve testing efficiency.

- **Metrology Lab** - During the 4th quarter of 2020, the ODA Metrology Lab completed 32 calibration work-orders for both private industry and other state metrology labs generating \$37,704 (*\$37,009) in revenue.
- **Motor Fuel Quality Program** - For the 4th quarter of 2020, Field Inspectors conducted the following motor fuel quality tests: 117 samples collected for lab analysis with 0 failures; 245 (*1,656) motor fuel quality screenings with 7 (*29) failed screens. All failed screens passed confirmation testing. 667 (*3557) fuel storage tanks screened with 6 (*18) screens showing excessive water in the tanks
- **County of Origin Labeling Program (COOL)** - Inspections were suspended for 2020 citing COVID and are expected to resume in 2021. ODA is looking at renewing the 5-year cooperative agreement between ODA and USDA in order to continue performing these inspections into the future.

Natural Resource Programs

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- **Process management system** - we launched an effort in 2020 to identify and track additional performance metrics, in order to understand how we are doing in several key areas. We have added metrics around customer service and complaint response time frames. We also identified the core work that we perform across programs. We are conducting quarterly business reviews and are continuing to build out our system.
- **Rulemaking** - we completed two significant rulemakings in 2020. One new rule limits the use of chlorpyrifos products and phases out most uses by December 31, 2023, and the other implements legislation allowing maintenance of traditionally maintained agricultural channels. Both processes involved extensive stakeholder engagement, close interagency collaboration, and balancing resource protection with maintaining tools available for ag production. We have made it a priority to improve on consultation with tribal nations in our rulemaking efforts.
- **Investigations** - a key accomplishment has been working through numerous pending cases in Pesticides. This caseload accumulated as the program absorbed new workload associated with high profile pesticide cases, legalized cannabis and required pesticide testing, and new requirements related to pesticides. The program has put a concerted effort over the past year towards working through those cases and monitoring caseloads on a regular basis.
- **Permits/Memorandum of Understanding** - the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) program continues to work on several complex and technical permitting projects as well as an update to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that captures the way the program currently does its work and describes how ODA and DEQ work together.
- **Strategic initiatives** - the Agricultural Water Quality Program continues to work throughout the state implementing Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs). The program is looking at ways to reduce administrative work to maximize the time available for strategic work and timely complaint response. The program is starting to plan and conduct strategic compliance work in areas of the state where local partners and communities are less supportive and have greater concerns. Some areas will be more time intensive in terms of working with local stakeholders and obtaining access to conduct our work.

On January 14, 2021, the Agricultural Water Quality Program Advisory Committee met and discussed possible strategies to reduce administrative workload associated with area plan review in order to free up more time for SIAs. Strategies included possibly conducting less frequent modifications to plans or

updating plans at the same schedule as DEQ water quality plans are updated. Stakeholders also noted the value of keeping the regular accomplishment reporting piece of plan reviews, but noted that there may be other options to provide progress updates.

In addition, program managers and staff explained that we will be asking for their help and advice as we move into more challenging areas of the state with the SIA process. Meeting participants encouraged the program to conduct intensive community engagement with local leaders as the program moves into more difficult areas. The program also provided an update on staffing and explained that technical staff are being reassigned to focus on the program's core compliance work and align with changes proposed in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

- **COVID and emergency response** - our team worked hard in 2020 to adapt to working predominantly at home and in responding to the multiple emergencies that occurred during 2020. The team's work included wildfire footprint mapping, to adapting to delivering services virtually, to conducting emergency reviews of pesticide products that can be used for disinfection, and many more activities.

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs

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- Key issue is securing continuous and stable funding for our invasive species programs, in particular for the largest Japanese beetle eradication project in Oregon's history and important noxious weed projects considering the financial constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM)**
 - We are in the midst of preparing for the 2021 Japanese beetle eradication in NW Portland and a few other sites across the Metro area. Good news: The Governor's recommended budget included full funding for our eradication efforts.
 - We will delimit the site at Sauvie Island where we caught one Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in a trap in 2020. Our counterparts in Washington are preparing for an aerial application of Btk for the AGM catch at Silver Lake, about 40 miles northeast of our AGM catch.
 - Within two weeks in October/November of 2020, two nurseries in Corvallis and Woodburn, respectively, reported, for the first time in Oregon, the new invasive pest, the spotted lantern fly. Luckily, both specimens were dead but it was a wake-up call for us and a reminder how quickly this particular invasive pest can spread across the US. We are working with industry and OSU Extension on alerts and preparation to early detect this pest.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program**
 - Most of our weed staff continue working for the Hemp Program.
 - Our noxious weed biocontrol program continued in 2020 with support of federal funds.
- **Nursery and Christmas Tree Program**
 - Christina (Chris) Benemann, our new Nursery and Christmas Tree Program Manager started in early November to lead our important industry programs.
 - Christmas tree export to other states and foreign countries was a big success again this year. No major issues have been reported.

- **Hemp Program**
 - The 2020 Hemp season ended strong. Numbers of registered growers were at 92% of last year's numbers. The acreage is at about 45% of 2019's numbers.
 - Our Hemp enforcement and inspection team inspected about 10% of all production and grow sites, followed up with complaints and enforced our Hemp regulations.
- **Native Plant Conservation Program:** Jordan Brown focused on field work funded by federal grants as state funding was cut for state consultation efforts.

Administration/Special Projects

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- **Canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD):** ODA is accepting applications for the 203 acres (out of 500) in the WVPD that were not permitted for fall planting. Applications must be received by Feb. 15, 2021. Prepared by: Sunny Summers
- **Feral Cannabis:** ODA held a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to discuss management of feral cannabis in Oregon. The group provided lots of good suggestions. ODA will work on updating the draft rules and hold another RAC before putting the rules out for public comment later this spring. Prepared by: Sunny Summers
- **Wolf Grant Program:** Jason Barber has retired and Jonathan Sandau and Sunny Summers will take lead on this program moving forward. Prepared by: Sunny Summers